

N EIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS



Happy New Year

TAKE A BITE OUT OF
CRIME



I would like to thank the voters for electing me to represent you on the Huntington Beach City Council. In addition, I would also like to thank my fellow Council Members for selecting me to serve as Mayor for 2022-23. During my campaign I knocked on a lot of doors and met some amazing folks – and I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming months! I encourage you to befriend your neighbors and look for opportunities to become more engaged in our community to enhance the quality of life in HB. As your Mayor, I look forward to the coming year by supporting our community, and I thank you in advance for your enthusiasm and support. It is an honor and a privilege to have the opportunity to build a better Surf City for all. Mayor Tony Strickland



A Message from Chief Parra

Greetings Neighborhood Watch Community Members

Neighborhood Watch programs are the oldest and best-known concepts to deter and prevent crime. A group of people living in the same neighborhoods, working together to maintain safety, deter crime, and accomplish specific goals is a powerful thing. Neighborhood Watch organizations promote an increased quality of life and work to establish control of their neighborhoods and communities. The Huntington Beach Police Department is committed to working with our Neighborhood Watch organizations and the community as a whole to accomplish our public safety goals. You can count on our support in 2023 and moving forward.

Block Meetings

There are several ways that HBPD and HB Neighborhood Watch can assist residents who deal with quality-of-life issues. In our pre-covid meetings, holiday crimes, vehicle theft, and homelessness issues had been addressed. But “crimes of opportunity” can be avoided by being mindful of your surroundings, locking your doors, removing valuables from your car, and by removing packages from your doorsteps as soon as you can. If you see anything suspicious in your neighborhood, don't hesitate to contact the police department. It is also good to get to know your neighbors online or in person. If no one reports a crime, your whole community can be impacted. Simply offer a hello and open the door to a new friendship! Contact numbers are listed on Page 3.

A Message from our Neighborhood Watch Board President - Nobu Stillwell



As we welcome the new year with gratitude that we are ‘getting back to normal’ gathering again and having more ‘in person’ meetings, neighbors feeling more comfortable attending block meetings, excitement and positive energy that surround the Huntington Beach Police Department.

As a volunteer for over a decade, I’ve become accustomed to ‘sensing the climate’ as soon as I walk in through the main lobby. I like to share with our community the change is unmistakable, there is a very happy, more relaxed and respectful atmosphere throughout HBPD. I see more smiling faces among the new and tenured officers and department staff as well as the volunteers. Though everyone is still busy, running in and out with purpose, no one seems to be drained or stressed. Instead, I sense a restored pride, honor and camaraderie. I hope many of you get a chance to experience the renewed excitement through events hosted by the HBPD such as block meetings you hold in your neighborhoods, or joining us to volunteer with the *Neighborhood Watch* or other volunteer programs through the Huntington Beach Police Department.



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Also, visit the City's website:

www.huntingtonbeachca.gov

If you would like to start a new Neighborhood Watch Program or arrange a Neighborhood Watch Block meeting for your neighborhood, please call 714-536- 5245 or visit the department in person for more detailed information on your specific concerns. If no one reports a crime, your whole community can be impacted.

VACATION HOUSE CHECKS

As a Huntington Beach resident, you have the advantage of a Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) in your city. One of the many services RSVPs offer HB residents is vacation checks. If you are going on vacation, notify the HBPD RSVP office to sign up for a vacation check. RSVPs will conduct an exterior security check of your home. Exterior areas of your home that are not accessible, will not be checked. If something appears suspicious, the RSVPs shall call for the assistance of a police officer. Please try to provide us with at least a 1-week notice (due to scheduling). We do understand that in an emergency that may not always be possible. If you have any questions or need more information about the HBPD RSVP Program, please call the RSVP office: 714-374-1507. House checks are not performed on Saturdays or Sundays. Vacation House Checks are performed based on availability of volunteers. Courtesy of the HBPD Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)

Opportunities to Participate!

Call (714) 536-5245 for any of the following programs*

- **Neighborhood Watch Board** - Meet monthly to discuss programs or events they can assist with or organize.
- **Serve as speakers** - at Block Meetings and distribute crime prevention information at various events.
- **Neighborhood Watch Assembly** - Assemble newsletters, prepare for mailing and distribution. (Meets the 2nd Thursday at HBPD training room 8:00 to 11:30 am)
- **Neighborhood Watch Speaker's Bureau** - Speakers are needed to educate the community regarding crime prevention and conduct Neighborhood Watch activities.
- **Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP)** - Retired members of the community must be 55 or older and complete an RSVP Academy. RSVP's must donate 24 hours monthly. This is a uniformed assignment where volunteers provide a variety of services. They conduct vacation residence checks, remove illegal signs, staff front desk and substations, conduct station tours, visit schools, fingerprinting of children, distribute crime prevention pamphlets, assist with clerical assignments, and represent the Police Department at various events. •
- **Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)** - Apply for this program upon successful completion of the Citizen's Academy. Requirements include donating at least 60 hours of service annually by assisting at special community events and Police Substations; distribute Neighborhood Watch newsletters. and volunteer for clerical and other various assignments.

CUT AND PASTE**OC Care**

Hours of operation:
8:00am-5:00pm daily
(714) 935-6848 or (949)
249-5160
5:00pm - 8:00am nightly
(714) 935-7158

Police Emergency
911

**Non-Emergency/
Dispatch**

714 960-8825

Information Desk

714 960-8843

Graffiti Hotline

714 960-8861

POLICE Business Line

714 960-8811

Community Relations

714 536-5245

Vacation House Checks

714 374-1507

Neighborhood Watch

714 536-5245

OC Animal Care

(714) 935-6848

Wildlife Watch Program

In partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Huntington Beach Police Department volunteers have been given the opportunity to complete a 3-day Wildlife Watch training course. During this course, volunteers were provided essential information about coyote behavior and provided the skills and tools necessary to facilitate and educate neighborhoods on safer coyote-human interactions. This program is part of the Neighborhood Watch Program. The course was 10 hours of training for certification. Please check out the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for classes that may interest you!

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Keep-Me-Wild/Coyote>

REMEMBER TO LEASH YOUR DOG!

The Huntington Beach Police Department and Orange County Animal Care want to remind residents that they must keep their dogs on a leash when in public areas.

HBMC 13.48.070 Animals, HBMC 7.04.010 Adoption of County Ordinances and Orange County Codified Ordinance (OCCO) 4-1-45 Restraint of Dogs states--in part: "No person-owning or having charge, care, custody or control of any dog shall cause or permit, either willfully or through failure to exercise due care or control, any such dog to be upon any public property unless such dog be restrained by a substantial chain, or leash not exceeding six (6) feet in length, and is under the charge of a person competent to exercise care, custody, and control over such dog. This means - Your dog must be leashed anytime your dog is off your property. Your dog must be on a leash no longer than six (6) feet in length and in the care of a competent person. The absence of a leash is lawfully allowed only in designated "dog parks."

Animals allowed to roam off leash may create a public nuisance by destroying property and causing injuries to themselves and others, all of which may result in a civil action/lawsuit against the owner.

Meet the Huntington Beach Human Relations Committee

by V.C. Rhone

Our Beginning

Created in April 1997 as the Human Relations Task Force, this advisory body to the City Council was reconstituted and renamed as the Huntington Beach Human Relations Committee (HBHRC) in November 2021. HBHRC committee members are appointed by the City Council and include Huntington Beach residents from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences.

Who We Are

The mission of the HRHBC is to inspire and promote mutual understanding, respect, safety and the well-being of all in our community through education and engagement. We are your neighbors, your parishioners, PTA members, parents, educators, attorneys, family members of law enforcement officers, Republicans, Democrats, Independents, business owners, caretakers of special needs children, doctors, filmmakers, and corporate trainers. We are you. We represent you. We understand you. And most of all, we need you.

What We Do

The HBHRC provides year-round programs and develops initiatives to promote meaningful interaction, education, and engagement with the community. We also work closely with the Huntington Beach Police Department and other community groups to coordinate city-wide efforts towards our mission.

We are committed to continuing the legacy of our founders, the late Dr. Ralph Bauer and the Honorable Shirley Dettloff. This year we celebrate 25 years of working with local elected officials, the HBPD and YOU, our beloved community. We envision Huntington Beach as a community where all people feel respected, valued, and are free from discrimination and violence.

Our Programs

Some programs and events we offer to the community include HB Listens, Student Day of Dialogue, Cultural Cinema Showcase, Community Summit, and the Ralph Bauer Youth Voices Essay & Art Contest.



HBHRC Chairperson V.C. Rhone with Mayor Barbara Delgleize receiving a commendation.

Hate Crimes

In 1964, the Federal Civil Rights Law was enacted; and California followed suit in 1987. California Penal Code 422.55 outlines what's considered to be a hate crime. The California Hate Crimes Law makes it a criminal offense to use force, violence or threat to intimidate, harm or disturb someone else – willfully and due to their race, national origin, religion, ancestry, sexual orientation, disability, gender, color or group association.

A hate incident is different from a hate crime. It is an action or behavior motivated by hate but is not a crime. Examples of hate incidents include: name-calling, insults, displaying hate material on your own property, posting hate material that does not result in property damage, and distribution of materials with hate messages in public places.

We recently completed a Hate Crimes Report highlighting Huntington Beach and surrounding cities, in conjunction with the HBPD and the City Manager's Office. For more info on how to report Hate Crimes or Hate Incidents, visit our website listed below.

What Can You Do?

We invite you to join us and get involved. The HRHBC meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:45pm at the Civic Center (Lower Level, Room B7). The meetings are open to the public.

No matter our differences, we can all agree that everyone deserves to live without fear and hate. Let's dedicate ourselves to see the humanity in one another, ie listen without defending and speak without offending.

For more info, upcoming events, or to donate:

Huntington Beach Human Relations Committee
of Huntington Beach, City Manager's Office
2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648
714-536-5553
www.huntingtonbeachca.gov/HRC



HBHRC Members at the 4th of July Parade.
(From L to R: Member Stuart, Chair Rhone,
Vice Chair Parrott, Member Patel and
Member Velazquez)

Your Neighborhood Watch Volunteers!

Executive Board of Directors & Executive Committee & Speakers Bureau

President: Nobu Stillwell

Vice President: Carole Grant

Secretary: Barbara Rier

Treasurer: Laura McDonald

Newsletter Editors: Carl & Alison Jablonski

Members: Dellamarie Bonomo, Mary Beth Czarnecki, Jim Dwyer, Christine Fairchild

Member at Large: Jeanne Petrocella



HBPD Patrol Areas Map

Please note that the Patrols area map is currently being revised - It will be available in the Spring issue!

Crime Data HB Police patrol areas are the Northwest, Northeast, Southwest, Southeast, and Downtown. Your RD (Reporting District) is the half-mile square surrounding your home. To locate your area and RD, ***please check the map on page 8.***



